PREFACE

The importance of the subject Human-Computer Interaction has gained widespread recognition in the computing and information technology during the last few years. It has been found that users are one of the critical components for interactive systems.

Our goal in this work is to design an expert user interface, which would reduce learning time, speed performance of tasks, lower error rates, increase user satisfaction and ease human retention of commands over time. Sufficient attention has been paid to avoid the error conditions. Errors in commands or control action can't cause the system to stop or unduly alter the system configuration. Command errors are detected at validation level and such commands would not be passed to computing processor to avoid overload of the system. Sufficient intelligence has been built to allow the valid users to access the information through a set of commands. In designing interactive system, attention has been paid to make user more attentive while communicating with system. Users are not allowed to leave the terminal unattended for a long time.

On line help has been built for the convenience of the users at command and parameter levels.

User can access the information by:
- directly inputting the command,
- reaching at command through menu,
- filling the form provided by the system for a command.

While form filling, interface assigns the default value of the parameters automatically, which user can change if so required. Novice would prefer menu and form filling due to lack of proper expertise where as expert would avoid menu because it would be time consuming.

Human-Computer Interaction and user interface have been used interchangeably in this work.